SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, there is a serious matter. The Intelligence Bureau people are keeping an eye on the Members of Parliament inside the Parliament House. It is an insult to the members of the House. The Home Minister must make a statement as to whether the IB people have been called in to keep an eye on the activities of Members of Parliament inside the Parliament House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : The IB matter should be taken up...*(Interruptions)*

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fifteenth Report

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I beg to present the Fifteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.04¼ hrs.

LEADERS AND CHIEF WHIPS OF RECOGNISED PARTIES AND GROUPS IN PARLIAMENT (FACILITIES) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for facilities to Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for facilities to Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I introduce** the Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSHI (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the dignity of the House demands and the dignity of the Members demand a probe into what is reported in a news item today in the Press that the IB was keeping a tab on the activities of the MPs inside the Parliament. This is not only unfair, but it is against the privileges of the MPs. It is against the dignity of the House. The Minister of Home must make a statement...*(Interruptions)* It is a serious thing. We cannot keep quiet...*(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : It is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

12.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of privilege. If the IB people are trying to harass us...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : It has been reported that the IB is keeping surveillance on the MPs inside the Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall allow all of you, one by one.

Shri Chandra Shekhar.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow every hon. Member, please let him speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed him.

12.07 hrs.

RE: INSTALLATION OF A STATUE OF MAHATMA GANDHI NEAR INDIA GATE

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am speaking on such an issue on which there would be hardly any dispute in this House. I had taken permission of the Hon. Speaker, yesterday itself. The controversy regarding installation of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at India Gate has been raging for the last 30 years. Shri Narasimha Raoji had laid the foundation stone at India Gate three years back with the promise that August Kranti Udyan would come up there and the statue of Mahatma Gandhi statue would be installed therein. Some thinkers and intellectuals of this country having a different mind set, had moved the Court and whatever they stated in the Court is enough to hurt anybody's feelings anywhere. So I do not want to respect them. They said that the statues of Mahatma Gandhiji installed throughout the country look like a caricature and installation of Mahatma Gandhi statue at India Gate would be an insult to the country and Art as well. They also remarked that it is a kind of aesthetic vandalism. The people belonging to Swatantra Sangram Sangathan and particularly Shashibhushanji had raised their voice opposing such a move and about 4-5 days back the Court has given the verdict that the Government should install the statue and a decision should be taken in this regard within 4-5 days. Mr. Deputy Speaker,Sir, as you know that there was a statue of George-V, installed in a canopy at India Gate. Shri Ram Manohar

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* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 31.7.97.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.